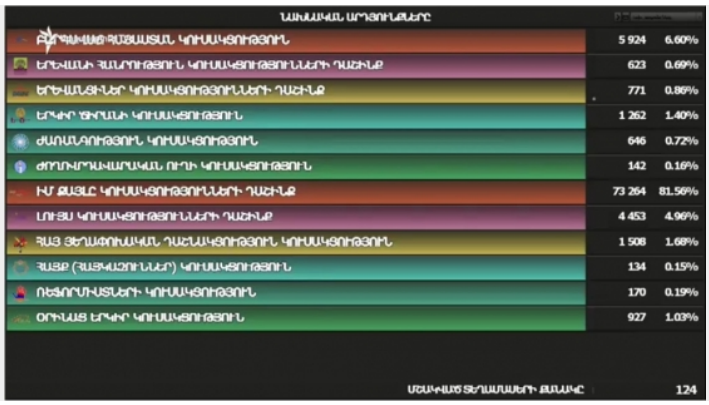
WITHOUT COMMENTS - ԱՌԱՆՑ ՄԵԿՆԱԲԱՆՈՒԹԵԱՆ

Posted on September 25, 2018 by Keghart



Category: Opinions

Partial results of Yerevan Mayoral and Councillors' Election, 23 September 2018

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Keghart.com will provide its remarks at a later date, but encourages its readers to make their comments.

Well-known comedian and actor Hayk Marutyan, who heads the electoral list of the My Step alliance, will automatically become the next mayor of Yerevan because this political force has garnered more than 50 percent of mandates, and in this case, according to the law, the person who heads the electoral list of the given political force is considered mayor-elect. Hayk Marutyan is expected to assume office on October 10. He is elected for the term of 4 years. If preliminary results hold mandates will be distributes as follows:

The struggle for Yerevan: how city elections became a referendum on Armenia's revolution

Zhanna Andreasyan, Open Democracy, 24 September 2018

(**A portion of the article**)

According to the initial results announced by the Central Election Commission, Armenia's revolution has won once again: roughly 81% of voters chose Pashinyan's "My Step" bloc. Moreover, according to the results and electoral legislation, there is no need for the new mayor to be selected by the newly elected council: when a party receives more than 50% of votes, the party's first choice becomes mayor.

Two other forces entered the city council — Prosperous Armenia (7%) and Luys Alliance (5%). The

latter did not pass the threshold for the alliance (8%) and will enter the council simply because the law states that at least three forces should be represented on the city council. Pashinyan's strategy of declaring a "referendum" on revolution rather than elections per se has worked out, it seems.

Looking more closely, however, at voter turnout (43.65%) poses new questions — questions that are more important than the expected second round victory of the revolution. If the revolutionary agenda proposed a mobilisation in Armenian civic life, why didn't this happen five months later? Why did more than half of registered voters choose not to vote? Who are these people? Where were they in April-May 2018 and where will they be when the upcoming snap elections to parliament are announced?

It seems that Pashinyan was already well aware who would vote for him in Yerevan: they were on the squares and streets during the revolution. Pashinyan's further success depends how he will answer the question: who are the groups that Pashinyan doesn't know in Armenian society? After all, calling these people "counter revolutionaries" may not be enough to secure victory the next time Armenia goes to the ballot box.